CLAIMS: 

We claim:

1. A method comprising:

determining a first semantic sub-space within a semantic space in response to an input term; and

displaying at least one document positioned with said first semantic sub-space if any documents are contained therein.

2. A method according to claim 1 further wherein if said semantic sub-space contains no documents then determining an expanded semantic sub-space, said expanded semantic sub-space larger than said first semantic sub-space, said determining repeated until at least one document is contained therein.

3. A method according to claim 2 wherein determining said expanded semantic sub-space includes increasing a radius of semantic distance about the meaning corresponding to the input term.

4. A method according to claim 1 further wherein if no documents are contained in said first semantic sub-space then no documents are displayed.

5. A method according to claim 1 further wherein if said semantic sub-space contains no documents then determining an expanded semantic sub-space, said expanded semantic sub-space larger than said first semantic sub-space, said determining

repeated until the one of the following occurs: at least one document is contained in the expanded semantic sub-space and the expanded semantic sub-space reaches a given threshold.

6. A method according to claim 1 wherein said documents are advertisements.

7. A method according to claim 6 wherein said advertisements are Internet banner ads.

8. A method according to claim 1 wherein said first semantic sub-space is redefined based upon further inputs of the particular meaning of said input term if said input term has more than one meaning in said semantic space.

9. A method according to claim 1 further comprising:

indexing documents within said semantic space.

10. A method according to claim 7 wherein banner ads may be sold to an advertiser by an information portal based upon is desired position within semantic space.

11. A method according to claim 10 wherein said banner ads are displayed to a user of said information portal, said user providing the input term.

12. A method comprising:

determining the semantic distance and relationship between a purchased synset in a semantic space and an input term, said

input triggering the retrieval of an ad purchased for a semantic sub-space about said semantic space;

determining the price of said retrieved ad based upon said determined distance and relationship.

13. A method according to claim 12 wherein the price of the retrieved ad is determined to be inversely proportional to the determined semantic distance.

14. A method comprising:

inputting at least one term to a semantic engine;

determining a first semantic sub-space within a semantic space in response to an input term; and

retrieving all words and meanings contained within said semantic sub-space.

15. A method according to claim 14 further comprising:

outputting said retrieved words and meanings.